

## Causes of World War I

Make sure you store these handouts carefully in your binder after you finish the assignment. Answer the questions in full sentences on lined paper, which you will turn in. The answers to these questions are due by **THE END OF CLASS.**

Use the sheet labelled "Causes of World War One" to answer questions 1- 9.

1. What is meant by the term alliance?
2. Why was Germany annoyed by Imperialism?
3. Which armies had increased in size between 1870 and 1914?
4. Describe the Von Schlieffen Plan.
5. What was the significance of the two crises in relation to the outbreak of World War I?
6. Which countries were bound to each other by which alliance?
7. How did imperialism contribute towards Germany's increasing anger with Britain & France?
8. Why was nationalism an important factor?
9. Describe the part Germany played in increasing European militarism.

Use the sheet labelled "European Alliances" to answer questions 10-14.

10. What was the purpose of the 1881 Austro-Serbian Alliance? How is this similar to the Dual Alliance?
11. When did Russia and Britain end their differences and decide to become allies?
12. What nations were part of the Triple Alliance?
13. What nations were part of the Triple Entente?
14. How did the growth of alliances lead to tension in Europe?

### Directions for the map-Homework

Use your notes, your text book and the information sheet in this handout to color in the alliances on the map provided. Choose one colour to represent the Triple Entente (Mnemonic: "entente" is a French word...). Use a different colour to represent the Triple Alliance. Make sure the colours are light enough so that the name of the country can still be read.

## Short & Long term: MANI

### Long term Causes

#### MANI:

- Militarism leads to large standing armies.
- Imperialism deepens national rivalries.
- Alliance system divides Europe into two rival camps.
- Nationalism spurs competition among European nations.

### Short term Causes (+AC)

- Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in June 1914 prompts Austria to declare war on Serbia.
- Crises: The alliance system requires nations to support their various allies during the crises and after the assassination.

WORLD WAR I

## Causes of World War One; an overview

Although it was the **Assassination** of the Austrian archduke, Franz Ferdinand that led to the outbreak of world war one in August 1914, the actual causes of the war were more complicated and not confined to a single cause.

### Alliances

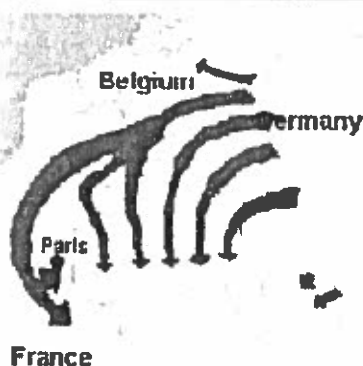
An alliance is an agreement made between two or more countries to give each other help if it is needed. When an alliance is signed, those countries become known as Allies. A number of alliances had been signed by countries between the years 1879 and 1914. These were important because they meant that some countries had no option but to declare war if one of their allies declared war first.

### Imperialism

Imperialism is when a country takes over new lands or countries and makes them subject to their rule. By 1900 the British Empire extended over five continents and France had control of large areas of Africa. The amount of lands 'owned' by Britain and France increased the rivalry with Germany, who had entered the scramble to acquire colonies late and only had small areas of Africa.



Pink = British Blue = French  
Red = German



### Militarism

Militarism means that the army and military forces are given a high profile by the government. The growing European divide had led to an arms race between the main countries. The armies of both France and Germany had more than doubled between 1870 and 1914 and there was fierce competition between Britain and Germany for mastery of the seas. The British had introduced the 'Dreadnought', an effective battleship, in 1906. The Germans soon followed suit introducing their own battleships. The German, Von Schlieffen also drew up a plan of action that involved attacking France through Belgium if Russia made an attack on Germany.

### Nationalism

Nationalism means being a strong supporter of the rights and interests of one's country. The Congress of Vienna, held after the Napoleonic wars left both Germany and Italy as divided states. It was nationalism the re-unification of Italy in 1861 and Germany in 1871. France was angry because the settlement at the end of the Franco-Prussian war had given Alsace-Lorraine to Germany. Large areas of both Austria-Hungary and Serbia were home to differing nationalist groups, all of whom wanted freedom from the states in which they lived.

### Crises

**The Moroccan Crisis** - In 1904 Morocco had been given to France by Britain, but the Moroccans wanted independence and were supported by Germany. War was avoided, but in 1911, the Germans were again protesting against French possession of Morocco. Britain supported France and Germany was persuaded to back down for part of French Congo.

**The Bosnian Crisis** - In 1908, Austria-Hungary took over Bosnia. This angered Serbians who felt the province should be theirs. Serbia threatened Austria-Hungary with war, Russia, allied to Serbia, mobilised its forces. Germany, allied to Austria-Hungary mobilised its forces and prepared to threaten Russia. War was avoided when Russia backed down. In 1911 and 1912 there was war in the Balkans when the Balkan states drove Turkey out of the area. The states then fought each other over which area should belong to which state. Austria-Hungary intervened and forced Serbia to give up land. Tension between Serbia and Austria-Hungary was high.

# European Alliances



**1879**

## **The Dual Alliance**

Germany and Austria-Hungary make an alliance to protect themselves from Russia.



**1881**

## **Austro-Serbian Alliance**

Austria-Hungary makes an alliance with Serbia to prevent Russia gaining control of Serbia.



**1882**

## **The Triple Alliance**

Germany and Austria-Hungary make an alliance with Italy to stop Italy taking sides with Russia.



**1894**

## **Franco-Russian Alliance**

Russia allied with France to protect herself from Austria-Hungary and Germany.



**1904**

## **Entente Cordiale**

This was an agreement but not a formal alliance between Britain and France



**1907**

## **The Anglo-Russian Entente**

Britain and Russia ended their differences with this alliance.



**1907**

## **The Triple Entente**

This alliance between Britain, France and Russia was made because of worsening relations between Germany and Russia and Germany and Britain